

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of February 9, 2004, the examiner objected to the specification because there was no "Brief Summary of the Invention", objected to the disclosure because of an informality, objected to the drawings, rejected claims 1, 2, 6 - 8, 11 - 16, and 18 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Yeivin et al. (WO00/60477), and rejected claims 3 - 5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeivin et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,761,424, Adams et al.

The examiner stated that the specification does not include a brief summary of the invention. However, 37 C.F.R. 1.73 does not require a brief summary of the invention. The second sentence of 37 C.F.R. 1.73 states "Such summary should, when set forth, be commensurate with the invention as claimed and any object recited should be that of the invention as claimed." Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the objection to the specification because a brief summary was not included.

The disclosure was objected to the disclosure because two references to "communication controller 10" on page 5 should have been to "communication controller 20". Accordingly, the paragraph starting at page 5, line 19, has been amended as suggested by the examiner.

The drawings were objected to because reference numbers 16 and 18 referred to the same block in FIG. 1A on Drawing Sheet 1. A replacement sheet 1 is included herewith that changes reference number 16 to refer to the block that includes block 18. Support for the change to FIG. 1A is given in the specification at page 4, lines 7 - 20.

Claims 1, 2, 6 - 8, 11 - 16, and 18 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Yeivin et al. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify that the communication handler is arranged to be programmable to perform transformations of a data stream at bit level to allow a plurality of channel handlers to be logically grouped within the communication handler. This provides the claimed advantage of allowing a number of different communication protocols to be serviced by a single communication handler, thereby allowing the device to be smaller and less expensive to produce. Because the subject matter of claim 6 has been included in amended claim 1, claim 6 has been canceled. The applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 7 - 8, 11 - 16, and 18 - 20, as amended herein, are allowable over Yeivin et al.

Claims 3 - 5 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeivin et al. in view of Adams et al. The applicants believe the comments above regarding the rejection of claims 1 and 13 also apply to the section 103 rejection of claims 3 - 5 and 17. Further, Adams et al. does not allow a plurality of channel handlers to be logically grouped within the communication handler. Accordingly, a combination of Yeivin et al. and Adams et al.

would not show or suggest the invention as claimed in the amended claims. Therefore, the applicants believe that claims 3 - 5 and 17 are allowable over Yeivin et al. in view of Adams et al.

The applicants have reviewed the art cited by the examiner but not relied upon, and believe that claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 20 are allowable over the cited references.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

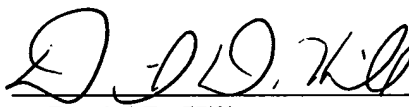
Believing to have responded to each and every rejection contained in the Office Action mailed February 9, 2004, the applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 20; thereby placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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